

CITES and trade in snake skins

UNCTAD/CITES meeting
Traceability systems for managing international trade in Southeast Asian python skins
17-18 October 2013
Geneva, Switzerland

CITES

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- Purpose: ensure that wild fauna and flora in international trade are not exploited unsustainably

180 Parties



CITES CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA		IDENTIFICATION		Date	
1. NAME OF THE PARTY		2. SPECIES		3. DATE	
4. AUTHORITY		5. TRADE		6. COMMENTS	
7. EXPORT		8. IMPORT		9. OTHER	
10. EXPORT		11. IMPORT		12. OTHER	
13. EXPORT		14. IMPORT		15. OTHER	
16. EXPORT		17. IMPORT		18. OTHER	
19. EXPORT		20. IMPORT		21. OTHER	
22. EXPORT		23. IMPORT		24. OTHER	
25. EXPORT		26. IMPORT		27. OTHER	
28. EXPORT		29. IMPORT		30. OTHER	
31. EXPORT		32. IMPORT		33. OTHER	
34. EXPORT		35. IMPORT		36. OTHER	
37. EXPORT		38. IMPORT		39. OTHER	
40. EXPORT		41. IMPORT		42. OTHER	
43. EXPORT		44. IMPORT		45. OTHER	
46. EXPORT		47. IMPORT		48. OTHER	
49. EXPORT		50. IMPORT		51. OTHER	
52. EXPORT		53. IMPORT		54. OTHER	
55. EXPORT		56. IMPORT		57. OTHER	
58. EXPORT		59. IMPORT		60. OTHER	
61. EXPORT		62. IMPORT		63. OTHER	
64. EXPORT		65. IMPORT		66. OTHER	
67. EXPORT		68. IMPORT		69. OTHER	
70. EXPORT		71. IMPORT		72. OTHER	
73. EXPORT		74. IMPORT		75. OTHER	
76. EXPORT		77. IMPORT		78. OTHER	
79. EXPORT		80. IMPORT		81. OTHER	
82. EXPORT		83. IMPORT		84. OTHER	
85. EXPORT		86. IMPORT		87. OTHER	
88. EXPORT		89. IMPORT		90. OTHER	
91. EXPORT		92. IMPORT		93. OTHER	
94. EXPORT		95. IMPORT		96. OTHER	
97. EXPORT		98. IMPORT		99. OTHER	
100. EXPORT		101. IMPORT		102. OTHER	

35,000 species



Snakes in CITES Appendix II

- Export, re-export and import of live and dead snakes, and their parts and derivatives, are regulated and traced through a system of permits/certificates
- Trade in Appendix-II listed snakes requires **CITES export permits** or **re-export certificates** [as a Stricter Domestic Measure, some Parties require additionally import permits]
- The most important conditions for delivery of export permits are that trade:
 - must be in **legal** specimens [Management Authority]
 - must **not be detrimental** to the survival of the species [Scientific Authority]
 - Transport conditions for live animals in trade [MA]
 - Annual reporting of trade in CITES trade database [MA]

The image shows a CITES permit form. A blue circle highlights the top section of the form, which includes the CITES logo and the text: 'CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILDLIFE AND PLANTS'. Below this, there are checkboxes for 'EXPORT', 'RE-EXPORT', 'IMPORT', and 'OTHER'. The rest of the form contains various fields for species identification, dates, and signatures.

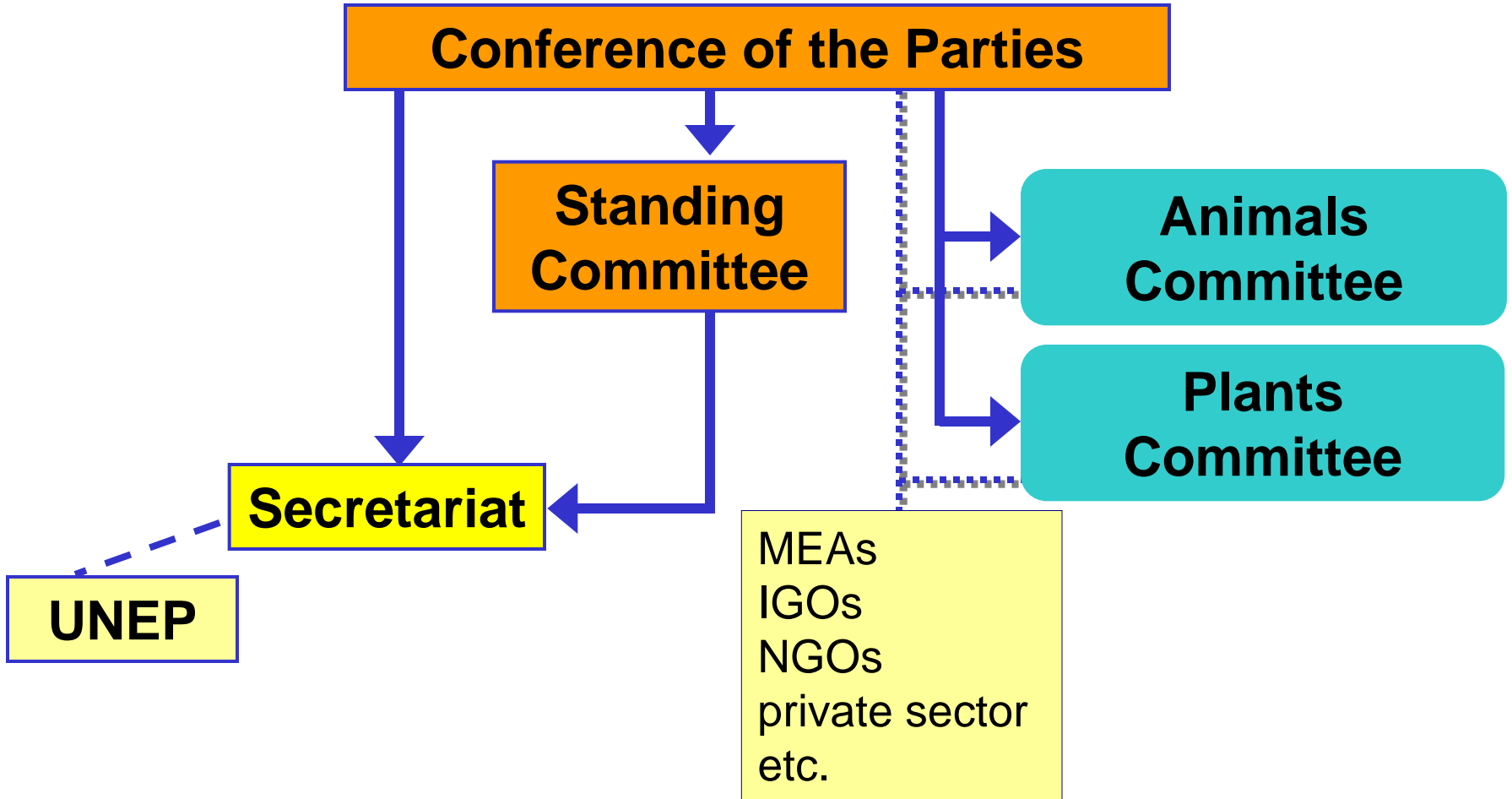


CITES export quotas for wild-sourced *Python reticulatus* from Indonesia and global direct exports, as reported by the importers and exporter, 2002-2013

Source: CITES Trade Database, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, UK

		Reported by	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Quota (live)			4500	5000	4500	4500	4500	4500	4500	4500	4500	4500		4500
Quota (skins and skin products)			157500	157000	157500	157500	157500	157500	157500	157500	157500	157500	162000	157500
Live		Importer	2092	1778	1732	1988	2074	2111	1647	1246	540	521		
		Exporter	4425	3901	4887	4272	3869	4353	4599	3816	2912	3114		
Skins		Importer	71374	54271	77327	165924	147212	140523	156340	153753	141579	152852		
		Exporter	161408	153062	151479	152180	151425	154703	154655	154955	152997	151720		
skin products	skin pieces	Importer		115	69				142	25	331	206		
		Exporter	4600				1	2			80817			
	garments	Importer				1		9	1		70	4		
		Exporter												
	large leather products	Importer			4	139	432	627	100	84	200	291		
		Exporter												
	small leather products	Importer	1324	647	9448	3131	7409	14365	2508.5	21678	50319	31957		
		Exporter												
	Subtotals	Importer	7159	3641	9256	7588	10430	18531	14426	36649	52601	56627		
	Exporter	1324	762	9521	3271	7841	15001	2751.5	21787	50920	32458			
	Importer	11759	3641	9256	7588	10431	18533	14426	36649	133418	56627			
Subtotals (skins and skin products)		Importer	72698	55033	86848	169195	155053	155524	159091.5	175540	192499	185310		
	Exporter	173167	156703	160735	159768	161856	173236	169081	191604	286415	208347			
Total (live, skins and skin products)		Importer	74790	56811	88580	171183	157127	157635	160738.5	176786	193039	185831		
	Exporter	177592	160604	165622	164040	165725	177589	173680	195420	289327	211461			

CITES Structures



CoP16 Decisions

Instructions from the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties concerning snake trade and conservation management
CoP16; Bangkok, March 2013

Secretariat (16.102)	Animals Committee (16.103, 104)	Standing Committee (16.105)	Parties (16.106, 107)	ICCWC and ASEAN-WEN (16.108)
<p><i>manage process to implement all instructions (“Decisions”)</i></p> <p><i>collect /disseminate info</i></p> <p><i>advise AC, SC</i></p>	<p><i>review info</i></p> <p><i>advise SC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• An AC Working group on snakes?</i> 	<p><i>review advice</i></p> <p><i>proposals to CoP17</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• SC working group on snakes (Parties from Asia, Central and South America, Europe, North America; IGOs; NGOs; Chair: Switzerland)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Focus on Asian States but other Parties also concerned</i> 	



CoP16 Decisions

To the Secretariat:

- Undertake four studies & provide guidance on: (i) snake **production systems**; (ii) **non-detriment findings** and export quotas; (iii) **pet trade** in rare species; (iv) differentiation **wild vs. captive-bred**
- Encourage **forensic identification of CITES-listed snakes** in trade and collect information from Parties
- Present **outcomes and recommendations to AC27 and/or AC28**
- Inform Parties of **relevant snake studies and information** (*ITC study on trade in python snakes in Asia; UNCTAD's reptile skin sourcing work; others*)
- **Workshops** in range States of Asian snakes on: (i) monitoring captive-breeding operations; (ii) making NDFs; (iii) establishing export quotas
- **Report** to SC before CoP17



CoP16 Decisions

To the Animals Committee:

- Review 4 Secretariat studies and other relevant information; at AC27: consider IUCN red listings for Asian snakes; recommendations to SC
- **Examine** UNCTAD's reptile skin sourcing work and any other relevant information on:
 - i. existing **marking and tracing systems** and **certification schemes**, which could provide best practices applicable to snakes
 - ii. a traceability system to confirm the **legal origin of snake skins**
 - iii. **economic feasibility of current technologies** to implement such traceability and marking system
- Advise SC on **feasibility of implementing a traceability system for snakes**
- **Report** at SC65 (July 2014) and SC65 (mid-2015)



CoP16 Decisions

To the Standing Committee:

- **Consider reports and recommendations** from AC and Secretariat, and any other relevant available information (on traceability as well as the other assignments)
- **Examine** UNCTAD's work on reptile skin sourcing, and other relevant available information concerning:
 - i. **socio-economic implications** of such a traceability system
 - ii. **potential costs** of a system at all levels along the supply chain, from producers to consumers
- Make **recommendations** to Parties, AC and the Secretariat
- **Report** at CoP17, with recommendations.



CoP16 Decisions

To Parties to eliminate important illegal and unreported trade in snakes, whether live or parts and derivatives:

- Properly issue permits and certificates
- Include all trade information in CITES annual reports; follow *Guidelines*
- Deter and detect illegal and unreported trade
- Education and outreach towards snake farms, buyers and sellers, product manufacturers, shippers, brokers, government agencies,...
- Parties in Asia: report on efforts to the Secretariat in time for SC65

To Parties in support of sustainable use of Asian snakes:

- Range States with shared CITES-listed species: develop **comparable or standardized NDFs**, including quota setting systems
- Establish voluntary **annual catch and export quotas**



CoP16 Decisions

To the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (**ICCWC**) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network (**ASEAN-WEN**):

- note concerns about illegal and unreported trade in snakes and their parts and derivatives
- take these into account when developing work programmes; **undertake relevant activities**



ICCWC



Process for a snake traceability system

CoP16 March 2013

- Mandates Secretariat, AC, SC

Secretariat:

- Gather studies and relevant information on traceability

Incl. UNCTAD/CITES results; existing marking and tracing systems; certification schemes; legal origin tracing; economic feasibility; current technologies;..

- Present information, outcomes and progress, with recommendations, to AC27 (- 60 days)

AC27 Veracruz 28 April-3 May 2014

- Examine studies and relevant information
- Advise SC on implementation of a traceability system for snakes

AC:

- Produce progress or final report for SC65 (- 60 days)

Secretariat:

- Continue collecting relevant information;
- For SC also on: socio-economic implications of traceability system; potential costs at all levels of supply chain
- Report for SC65 (-60 days)



Process for a snake traceability system

SC65 Geneva, 7-11 July 2014

- Consider report from AC on traceability (by SC Working Group on snakes and in plenary)
- Examine additional relevant information
- Recommendations for Parties, AC or Secretariat
- Possibly: instructions for further work by its SC Working Group on snakes, by the AC or by the Secretariat

SC Working Group on snakes, AC and Secretariat:

- Implement instructions from SC as appropriate

AC28 mid-2015

- Review additional information?
- Finalize advice for SC on implementation of a traceability system for snakes?

AC:

- produce final report for SC66?

SC Working Group on snakes

- produce report for SC66!
(- 60 days)

SC66 Geneva 31 Aug-4 Sept 2015

- Consider Working Group report (and AC report?) on traceability and other relevant information
- Finalize recommendations for CoP17 (possibly between SC66 and CoP17 ;
- 150 days for final report to CoP17)

CoP17 South Africa 2016

- Parties review and decide on SC proposals
- New traceability systems enter in effect following CoP17



CITES Secretariat Geneva

www.cites.org

